

## A SCIENTIFIC STUDY

has shown that laboratory rats exhibit behavior paralleling that of humans when exposed to alcohol.

Given the choice between inverted bottles of water or ouzo, ten percent of the rats will become terminal drunks, even taking a few sips after uncurling in the morning in order to face the day.

The others engage only in social drinking, perhaps on rat holidays unknown to man, then sip water alone for a few days, nursing their spiteful rat hangovers.

The study adds that the drunks occupy a low social status within the community, an observation offered without support.

Perhaps they are never elected mayor, never asked to judge the Miss Cheese contest, or invited to lecture on the plague, but what should any of that matter?

The feeding bottle is replenished daily. And who needs more than a few close pals who enjoy a good hoot together,

pulling each other's tails late at night, harmonizing loud enough to irk the sober and even wake up the lab assistant, his big pink face staring into the cage, their wobbly laughter noted in his ledger.